

A Modest  
**VINDICATION**  
OF THE  
**Present Ministry:**

From the *Reflections* publish'd against them in a late  
Printed Paper, Entituled,

*The Lord HAVERSHAM's Speech, &c.*

With a Review and Ballance of the

**Present W A R.**

**E V I N C I N G,**

That We are not in such a Desperate Condition as  
that Paper Insinuates.

Humbly submitted to the Consideration of all, but  
especially to the Right Honourable and the Ho-  
nourable, the North-British Lords and Commoners.

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By a Well-wisher to the Peace of Britain.

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## MODEST VINDICATION, &amp;c.

**T**HE dutiful and submissive regard that every Gentleman has, or ought to have for the Dignity, Privileges, and Prerogatives of the most august and honourable Assembly of the Nation, *The House of Peers*, has ever had such weight with me, that if the Paper now under Consideration, had appeared with the smallest Badg of the Authority of that House, I had never presum'd to publish my Thoughts about it. But finding a Pamphlet cried through the Streets, with an unusual hurry, full of heavy, and I hope unwarrantable Reflections against the *Ministry*; and thereby seeming to have a direct Tendency to alienate the Affections of her Majesty's Subjects from her Government, by creating a Diffidence in them of her Royal Administration, under the Name of *The Ministry*; I humbly conceiv'd it wou'd not be taken amiss, that I adventur'd to make some Animadversions upon that dangerous Paper: And that I judg'd the more necessary on this Occasion, because the real, or pretended Author of it, has by some precedent Speeches, acquir'd amongst the Multitude, so great a Reputation for Zeal for his Country's Good; that some of the giddier sort, whose Minds are now exasperated at the Disappointments of this Campaign, suck in the Venom with unusual eagerness: Which if not prevented, may have more dangerous Consequences than every body seems to be aware of.

The Design of the Speech is very plainly expressed in it: The Lords are told, *That begin where they will, if they do not end with the Ministry, in that noble Lord's Opinion, they will be in a worse Condition than before: And elsewhere the Speech assures their Lordships (tho' by a strange sort of Inference) That the Ministry have occasion'd our Losses, and have b'en the Root of all our Misfortunes, and that without a Change of the Ministry, no remedy (In his Lordship's Opinion) can be effectual: And his Lordship concludes, That let our Misfortunes be skinned over as they will, if they fester and throb, and be foul at bottom, they will certainly break out with Incurable Rage and Fury.*

And indeed that Conclusion is of a piece with the Beginning; where after the Orator has inform'd their Lordships, *That every Man will endeavour to preserve his own Life, tho' at the same time he knows that Death is unavoidable: He adds, That he takes that to be the present State of England, with a flourishing Apology, that he cannot forget the Beloved Name, which is now swallow'd up in that of Britain; whose Condition, his Lordship says, is very low and desperate: But yet his Lordship thinks himself obliged to do all he can towards the helping a poor sinking Island, tho' at the same time he is convinced it will be very insignificant.*

And then his Lordship goes on to give us a very frightful Account of our Disasters, *That our Ships are taken by our Enemies (and our Herrings by our Friends) our*  
Royal



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Royal Navy has not escap'd, our Merchants beggar'd, our Commerce broke, our Trade gone, our People and Manufacture ruin'd, ( a huge deal of Words ) the Customs lost, and the Parliament to make good the Deficiencies: And then our Allies are invidiously brought in again, as having an open Trade; which I don't see any reason to blame them for: Since tis beyond all Contradiction, that the States of *Holland*, being a free and Sovereign Republick, may take such Measures as to them seem most advantageous, for the good and benefit of their Subjects: And I am confident, that if the Parliament of *Great-Britain* think fit to take the same Measures, none of their High and Mighty Lordships will presume to say any thing against it.

This noble Lord seems to have a great deal of Deference for the Addressee of the Illustrious Assembly, of which he has the Honour to be a Member: And since his Lordship cannot be ignorant of that in which they humbly pray her Majesty to cultivate a good Correspondence and Intelligence with all her Allies, and especially *The States General of the United Provinces*, I wonder that a Peer so zealous for the Glory and Prosperity of his Country, should take all Occasions, in the middle of a dangerous and dubious War; to give our best Allies sufficient Grounds of Jealousie and Discontent. Our Herrings it's true, are taken on our Coasts, by a People more Industrious than our selves; and tho' 'tis beyond all Contradiction, that some Acknowledgement ought to be made for that Allowance, a fitter Opportunity might be taken for it.

The same Lord in a former Speech, was pleas'd to quarrel with the Prudence of that State, for restraining their Forces from a Battle, which if lost, they believ'd might have been of very uneasy Consequence to them. And one wou'd have thought that the small Encouragements that Speech met with, might have been a sufficient disswasive from making new Reflections against them.

The Design of the Speech being thus made clear, which is to overturn the Ministry, in hopes that if a new one is created, some body may have a share in it; I am next to consider the Method which the Author has taken to make his Project take Effect. And here it appears to be calculated for Three Ends.

To Compliment the Prince,

The *North-British* Lords and Commoners, And  
The People.

As to the First: We are told that whatever Faults the Prince's Council has committed, his Royal Highness is advis'd not to lay down that Commission, because he holds it by a better Title than the favour of the Ministry, and consequently cannot be under any Awe. And so far I can't deny but his Lordship is in the Right on't: But if the attendance his Highness gives the Queen his Royal Consort, and the Great Affairs of State; does necessarily oblige him to leave the Management of the Navy to other Hands, and he shou'd be pleas'd to resign it to another; I don't see any reason why he shou'd be deny'd that Liberty.

And next, my Lords, the *North-British* Peers must be cajo'd, and the Infractions of the Union insisted on. As to which I shall only say, *That if any Person whatsoever*  
has

has Transgressed against the Stipulations of the UNION, the Law is Open, and the Offenders ought to be severely Punish'd. But how far this noble Lord is their Friend, is what I shall in due time consider.

The People come next, and they are told how deeply this noble Orator is affected with their grievous Losses and Misfortunes. If they will take his Word, that he has not any other Design in view, I shall not be against it; and therefore I shall leave that Consideration to resume the Story of the UNION.

And here I cannot help reminding my Reader, that tho' thirty of the ablest Statesmen of the then (so much beloved) English Nation, consented to an Union of the British Monarchies: The Lord Haversham in his Speech to the House of Lords, in the last Session of Parliament was pleas'd to inform their Lordships, That he had a Right of uttering his Thoughts, and entering his Protest too, to any thing that he might be pleas'd to dislike; which he threaten'd their Lordships he certainly should find an occasion to do, before that Matter could pass into a Law: But it seems that honourable Assembly, found a way to make his Lordship sensible, That they had a Right to enact a Law without the Consent, and notwithstanding the Protest of that noble Lord.

His Lordship then went on to plead a great deal of Merit on the side of (Scotland, now) North-Britain; in Consideration of a Motion made in a former Session of Parliament, for repealing certain Clauses of an Act by which that Kingdom was agrieved; and assur'd us that his Lordship wou'd do any thing that might be conducive to the Interest of both Nations.

I will not presume to Suggest that the Motion was not made with the most generous intentions Imaginable on his Lordships part; but yet I can't be so unjust to all the rest of the Illustrious House of Peers, as to fancy that such a Motion had never been made, if my Lord of Haversham had been out of the way: And besides that, I can't forbear putting his Lordship in mind, that the best way to have secur'd to himself the esteem and veneration of that People, for the Services done to them in the first Session of the present Parliament, wou'd have been, not to have run Counter to 'em in the second, as 'twill plainly appear his Lordship did, upon the perusal of the following Paragraph of his Speech.

*These Articles ( Meaning the Articles of the Union ) come to your Lordships with the greatest Countenance of Authority, that I think it's possible any thing can come; your Commissioners have agreed to them; the Scots Parliament has; with some few Amendments; Ratify'd them; and the Queen her self from the Throne Approves of them; and yet you must give me leave to say, That Authority, though it be the Strongest Motive to incline the Will, is the weakest Argument in all the World to convince the Understanding.*

*'Tis the Argument the Church of Rome makes use of for their Superstitious Worship, where there are ten Ave-maries to one Pater-noster; just as unreasonable as if ten times the Application and Address were made to a **She Favourite**, as to the Person of the Sovereign, which is a kind of State Idolatry.*

I shall not here insist upon a nice Distinction between perswasive and Coercive Authority. If the Author means the first, he says nothing to the purpose; and if the



the latter, 'tis preposterous to Dream that the Authority of the Commissioners delegated by her Majesty by virtue of an Act of Parliament, can be Coercive with regard to the Parliament. The Noble Lord did well observe that the two Kingdoms were independent of one another, from whence it follows; that the Authority of the Parliament of *Scotland*, cou'd not interfere with that of *England*: And his Lordship no doubt wou'd be thought too good a Patriot, to fancy that the approbation from the Throne, *Anglice* her Majesty's sole Authority, is Coercive in enacting of Laws.

Shall then the mild persuasions of a gracious Prince, who had receiv'd that very Session, the willing thanks of a dutiful Parliament, for her pious and indefatigable endeavours, to make her Sister Kingdoms as happy in each other as both are in their tender Princely Mother; be by a Member of the Superiour House of that very Parliament, compared to the odious and infernal Cruelty of the *Romish* Idolaters? Or after the Conclusion of such an *Union*, shall we be afresh disturbed with imaginary Fears and Jealousies; as before we were told amazing Stories of the Toes of *Nebuchadnezzar's* Image, to introduce a groundless Apprehension of the necessity of a standing Force, to maint<sup>n</sup> in the Stipulations of the *Union*; which thanks to God there has not hitherto been any Occasion for, tho' before the *Union* his Lordship expressed himself to be in the greatest Apprehensions imaginable about the real or pretended Commotions and Disturbances in *Scotland*; alledging withall, a great deal of care for the *Good Old English Constitution*, and especially for the *English* Peerage, which his Lordship did then Fancy to be in Danger, by the Sixteen *Scotch* Noblemen, to be by the Articles of *Union* admitted into the House of Lords: Upon whom by the way, his Lordship did pass in that Speech, but a very Indifferent Compliment, by seeming so apprehensive that they might be inclined to make any Invasion upon the *English* Constitution.

The Religion and Laws of the Respective Nations are provided for by the very Conditions of the *Union*; which if duly observ'd may perhaps prove the best Security of both: And whatever this Noble Lord may fancy of the *North British* Members, I am apt to believe that if some future Prince shou'd pretend to make any Invasion upon the Priviledges and Immunities of the Subject, the *North-Britains* wou'd be as refractory as their Neighbours.

But above all things, one wou'd wonder to see in that Speech from such a hand, such an Admonition given to my Lords the Bishops. That truly, they ought not to part with the *Episcopal Ordination and Supremacy* in *Scotland*, which they never had any thing to do with. Last Reign, a certain Lord was look'd upon as a violent Dissenter, and last Session he was Orator and Champion for the Bishops: In the first Session of this Parliament, he was for bringing in the *Scotch* Cattle, and last Session for keeping out the *Scotch* Men. 'Tis well his Lordship himself has told us, that he can conform Occasionally; for else a Body might have thought him a perpetual Non Conformer.

Well, but in the next place we are told, as a farther Blind upon the *North British* Lords &c: That the First, Fourth, and Last Articles of the *Union* have been broken;

and that after the honest Trader thro' a thousand Difficulties and Dangers, has brought home some small Effects, he is fallen upon and oppressed, by unjust and vexatious Prosecutions.

And here no doubt his Lordship hints at the business of the *Scotch Wines and Brandies*; in which if that Nation has been any way agrieved, no doubt they have a Right to apply for a proper Remedy and Satisfaction. They say that the Goods were really theirs, and that being brought thither in a lawful manner, and made *Scotch Goods*, before the Commencement of the *Union*, they did on the first of *May*, actually become *British Goods*, and consequently were not liable to any new Custom here: In which they are certainly in the Right, if it be true that the Effects were really *Scotch* and legally entered there. But my Lord T— being informed that it was a meer Trick of some Merchants and Vintners here, not only to import a Prohibited Commodity from an Enemy's Country; but even to defraud her Majesty of her Customs, at a time when the Revenue has no need of being impaired, he thought fit to cause the Wines to be seiz'd; till the Owners shou'd give security to try the Cause with the Queen at Law.

The Case being thus, with all due respect to the Gentlemen of *North Britain*; I think it does not deserve so severe a Censure as his Lordship wou'd inflict on it. Nor is there wanting a Precedent much of the same Nature with this, to justify in a great Measure that Act of the Lord T—. When about the Year 1700. Our Merchants had found out much such another Trick, to defraud the King of his Custom, by sending great Quantities of *French Wines* to *St. Sebastian's* and *Leghorn*, and other places in *Spain* and *Italy*, where being drawn off into Casks of those Countries, they were imported hither under the Notion of *Spanish* and *Florence Wines*: But the Parliament being informed of the Cheat, a speedy Stop was put to that Abuse.

It has seldom been the Crime of our Lords or Commissioners of the Treasury, to be over diligent, and vigilant in the performance of their Duty. 'Tis a very hard matter for a Man in so great a Place to please every Body; and 'tis ten to one, if the Wines had never been seiz'd or meddled with, but the Malecontents wou'd have cried out *Bribery*.

The noble Lord in whose hands the Administration of the Revenue is now lodg'd, has long been look'd upon as the fittest in the Nation for that Post. He's a pious, industrious Man and such a one we want. Nor can it be denied by his greatest Enemies, that he has put the Exchequer upon such a foot as it never was known to be upon before. His Lordship no doubt knows his Duty very well & has ever been believ'd a good judge of his own Interest. If any thing is legally offer'd against him, either about the Affair of the Wines or that of *Spain*, his Lordship must make his legal Defence: But let that matter go which way it will; if this Lord cou'd attain his Aim, which plainly seems to be the Displacing the Lord T— (amongst the rest of the Ministry) his Lordship wou'd do well, first to let the Nation know where they may be provided of a better. But the Earl of G— is not the only Person



Person that here is pointed at: Our Orator takes the Ministry by wholesale; and will not be satisfied with any thing less than an Universal Change: But yet he still leaves some particular mark of distinction for those that are more especially aim'd at.

His Lordship tells us *That the face of our Affairs is visibly chang'd in one years time, and the Temper of the Nation too*, ('twere well his Lordship's had been chang'd amongst the rest.

'Tis strange that such an Alteration shou'd happen in so small a time, in a Nation inur'd during almost the whole Course of the last War, to Misfortunes much superior to any that have happen'd this; and which yet were supported with a great deal of Constancy and Resolution, and sure I am that Widows and Orphans were then as plentiful as now, and no such Outcry made of it by this noble Peer; but there's nothing without a Reason.

And now the dismal Story must end with the frightful Vocables of *Resentment* and *Indignation*, against the (Ministry) Authors of these Misfortunes. Strange Innuendo! the Ministry must be responsible for the Act of God or the Enemy! Where is the Man at this Rate, that will be a Minister?

Well: This is not all; The old Eye lore, must have a share it seems in all the Speeches. And we are told, *That the Flames* (a new fashion'd Word) *that have lately flew abroad, no Body knows from whence, and the Papers which have been cried in our Streets, are all marks of the great Ferment, the Nation is* (supposed by his Lordship to be) in.

Why really here is News to the King of France, which no doubt he'll be very glad of: The Enemy has the Evidence of a noble Peer, to prove the imaginary Ferment of the Nation. They very well know what use to make of that Ferment both with our Allies and with neutral States and Princes, and for that Reason I cou'd have wish'd with all my heart, whatever might be fit to be said in a proper place, where a Remedy is to be expected, that no such fermenting Paper had ever been expos'd to the giddy Multitude, to put those in a Ferment, that perhaps were in none before.

Good God! Why all this Ferment: If upon account of any real or pretended Breach of the Union, in God's Name let the matter be fairly, (but calmly) enquir'd into. Let the Brave North Britons have all neighbourly and reasonable satisfaction, and let the offenders be duely censur'd, which is all that can reasonably be desired.

If upon Account of our Losses: 'Tis true they have been considerable by Sea, which is what our Nation is most deeply affected by. Part of our Loss there, nay our most sensible Loss (the Death of the Brave Sir Cloudesley Shovel, and the Loss of his and some other Ships) was the Act of Almighty God: The rest was the immediate Act of our Enemy, and if it can be made appear that any Person concerned in the Management of the Navy, was wanting to his Duty, either by Treachery or Negligency, with all our Hearts *Fiat Justitia*.

But why shou'd the Innocent be involv'd in their Misfortunes, without having any share in the Crime? Because Judas betray'd his Lord, the Saviour of the World,

World, shou'd all the Apostles be reckon'd Traytors: Is it impossible that some Person concern'd in the Navy shou'd commit a Crime, without the Participation of all the Ministry? Or must those noble Persons whose Predecessors and themselves have often sav'd the Nation from utter utter Ruine, be all undone for the fault of one Man; if any such fault were prov'd? It being evident that most of the Lords and others now concerned, in the Administration, and their Families, have ever been the Nation's Benefactors.

It is a known Maxim amongst the Interpreters, *That where an Author's words are obscure and dark in one place, the sense is to be gather'd from such parts as are more intelligible.* And whoever is at pains to take this Speech a little to pieces, and compare some Passages in it, with others of a precedent Speech, will easily unriddle all the Mystery of the *Fables* dispers'd abroad and the *Papers* cried in our Streets; which are urg'd as so many visible Proofs of an Universal Ferment,

'Tis true we have lately had some fallen Rumours of Correspondence with France, Confinements for it, and the Lord knows what. For as the Speech does well observe, they flew abroad, no body knows from whence, as 'tis ordinary for the Works of Darkness to do. After these, follow'd the Scurrilous Papers alluded to in the Speech. The first of these infamous Libels, was entituled, *The Fortune of Royal Favorites*, and contain'd a ridiculous, impertinent incoherent, nonsensical Story of the *Spencers*, the Earl of *Essex*, &c. And was follow'd by another impudent piece of Nonsense, call'd a Vindication of the Burches of ——— doubtless both the product of some Hackney, hawking Scoundrel, to purchase at that villainous Rate, the price of a Pot of Ale, and some Bread and Cheese and Tobacco, with which such arrant Knaves are incessantly furnish'd, by two or three rascally fellows, who are a grievance to the Nation, and a scandal to their otherwise Reputable Trade of *Printing*. And that such an unaccountable piece of ribaldry, shou'd be urg'd as an Argument of a national Ferment, will I presume appear very strange to all but such as wish it were so.

For the better understanding of this part of his present Speech, it will be necessary to look back to a presumptuous *Simile* in a former, already mention'd, where this Lord is pleas'd to introduce a *She Favourite* whom he distinguishes with *Black Letters*, supposing her to receive *ten times* the Submissions and Addresses paid to the Sovereign; and therefore Compliments her with the Name of a *State Fool*, tho' may be his Lordship would not have been the last to have Worship'd her, if he had not cunningly foreseen, that his Homage wou'd hardly have been thought worthy the Acceptance.

If a late Lady had been so great a Favourite, a new Lord wou'd not perhaps have made so great a Noise, and the People shou'd never have been scard with frightful Riddles of the *Papish* Invocation of Saints and Angels. Every private Subject has the Liberty of requiting the Fidelity and Affection of their old Servants, and why shou'd a Sovereign be denied the Privilege of exerting the Princely Vertues



Vertues of Gratitude and Generosity ! No State Favourite can be so great in *England* as to be above the reach of the Law, if their Behaviour, renders them obnoxious to it : And as the Parliament has an undoubted Right, which they have often and generously asserted, of preventing any prejudice to the Nation by such means, they never will on the other hand presume to set Limits to the private bounty of a liberal Prince, to such as have the happiness to deserve it.

The Honours and Distinctions with which our present most gracious Sovereign's particular Inclination has led her to gratifie the inviolable Affection of the fortunate Lady to whom this invidious blow is given, have been so gloriously confirm'd by the Parliament and the People, who are equally sensible of the Infinite Services perform'd by the most renowned Subject now in *Europe* : That one wou'd wonder how it should so much as enter into the Heart of any Malecontent to repine at the choice of a gracious Sovereign, which Almighty Providence seems plainly to approve.

Flattery I know is nauseous to all but those who stand in need of it, and therefore I shall not undertake the difficult Task of enumerating the manifold Blessings with which a gracious God has been pleas'd to Crown the Administration of a pious and grateful Queen, committed to the care of an able and faithful Ministry. The Wisdom, Justice and Moderation of the present Government, is a happiness *Britain* has been too long a Stranger to; and the Continuation of which I am perswaded is the Subject of the Prayers of all good Men. 'Tis the effect of a late happy Resolution; may God Almighty preserve us from another.

And here by the way ; it may not be amiss to put the now cajol'd *North-British* Peers in mind of the Apprehensions his Lordship then expressed of the Danger the Peerage seem'd by the *Union* to be expos'd to. Nor do I doubt, whatever Opinion his Lordship may be pleas'd to entertain of them, that he will find the *North-British* Understandings to be of a better size, than thus to be led away into this Ferment the rest of the Nation is said to be in.

I hope I have now made it pretty plain, to any unprejudic'd Reader, who are the particular Persons in the Ministry, more especially pointed at in this Speech; and having elsewhere Suggested, that even the Royal Authority cannot shelter the Queen her self from the virulency of some Pens, I must for Proof of that, appeal to the two last Paragraphs of the before quoted Speech in the following Words :

*In King Charles the First's time, the Cavaliers were the Persons that ventur'd their Lives, and lost their Estates to serve him. And in King Charles the Second's time they were forgot, and left Starving. At the Restoration, the Presbyterians were as zealous for that as any Man whatever; and none more persecuted all his Reign, the Bishops threw out the Bill of Exclusion, and King James put them in the Tower. At the Revolution, the Londonderry Men, &c. were the Persons that made the first and noble stop to King James in Ireland; and I my self have fed some of them at my own Table, when they were starving, with the greatest Commendations and Promises in their*

their Pockets; which I have seen under King William's own Hand. In the last Reign, every Body knows who they were that made their constant Court at St. James's, and we see what favour they are in at present.

Now there is a great deal of Zeal for this Union, I wish from my Soul that the Advantages may attend it of Tranquillity and Security, Power, Peace and Plenty, as is intended by it; but yet it is possible men may be mistaken. I won't say they will ever repent it; but I will take leave to say what I have formerly said in this place, that has been may be.

One wou'd have thought, at least, King William's Memory might have been more sacred to a certain Lord, to reflect upon it at such an odious rate: The number of those that deserv'd well for their Services in the last War, was very great, but that of the Pretenders was much greater; and if that mighty King was not able to stuff all the Irish Heroe's Pockets with Money, it was at least a Mark of his Majesty's good Inclinations towards his Servants, that he provided them with such ample Testimonies and Commendations as invited this Noble Peer's London-Derry Guests to such a plentiful Table, tho' no doubt they did not expect their Host wou'd have clear'd Accounts with them so publickly.

The awful Reverence I have for the sacred Majesty that presides at St. James's Palace, forbids me to trace the Author in his odious and reflecting Comparison between the Court of her late Royal Highness, and that of her now most excellent Majesty: What the design of that Comparison is, let the World Judge: I shall only tell a story to which doubtless a Man of our Authors Reading cannot be a stranger.

A certain Duke of the Royal Blood in France, having a long while been ill us'd by some of his Inferiors coming afterwards to the Crown, was advis'd by one of his Flatterers to resent it; But that wise Prince considering his Interests were different from that he formerly had been, answer'd the malicious Parasite; that the King of France had nothing to do with the Affairs of the Duke of Orleans.

So that upon the whole, the English of this Author's Epilogue is this, That the only way to be in favour, That is, to be sure of a good Place in the next Government, is to be very refractory in this.

I agree with the Author, That some things that have been may be. And I shall balance that with a North-British Proverb, I don't think improper here, viz. It's hard to ding out o'the Flesh, what's bred i'the Baenes. 'Tis such an uneasy matter to please some People, that I doubt they will be long out of Humour: And perhaps that's the reason, That which has been is now, and like to be, as long as some body is.

I have already hinted how unreasonable these bitter Reflections upon our Allies seem to be, in the middle of a dangerous War, in which the strictest Confidence and Correspondence are absolutely necessary for our common Preservation: But this too obliquely points at our so much envy'd Ministry, tho' I believe his Lordship wou'd be puzzled if the Question was put to him, to tell us when we had such another set of Men in their Posts, since the Days of Queen Elizabeth, of happy Memory; nor do I believe, that I should venture much, if I asserted that ev'n all



all the Reign of that glorious Prince does not afford us any Example of such an honest, prosperous and steady Administration as the present: Neither can I conceive the reason why the Disasters of the Navy should be imputed to them, without better Reasons, than meer suggestions.

A Body would think by the keennels of this Author for a Change, that he himself was in that Case, sure of being put at the Helm of all Affairs. What the Consequences of a new Ministry, and new Measures might be in our present Circumstances, is more than what the Author is able to answer for; and as he was little better pleas'd with the last, I'm afraid he wou'd still make a greater Noise, (and perhaps with more reason) against the next.

But now to come a little closer to the Matter, if it was ask'd what great Crimes the Ministry has committed, to render them thus obnoxious to the violent Resentments of this Lord, it may be worth enquiring what may be answer'd?

*Oh!* says he, *We have lost a great many Ships, one Battle in Spain; and are now forc'd to be on the Defensive on that side, where before we had almost beat the Enemy out of the Country.*

As to the Ships, if any Misbehaviour can be prov'd, let it be punish'd, I see no reason to lay the Loss of the Battle of *Almanza* to the charge of the Ministry: And I have elsewhere said, That if our other Disappointments on that side, be imputable to any particular Persons, they only ought to answer it without any general Reflection upon all the Ministry.

Ungrateful Nation! The unparallel'd Attack at *Schellenberg*, the yet more glorious Victory of *Hochstet*, the succeeding Triumphs of *Ramelies*; *Bavaria* reduc'd, the Lines forc'd, the Barrier of the so much beloved *England* rescued out of the hands of the common Enemy; a vast number of glorious Sieges; the most successful Negotiations, and all the Toils and honourable Fatigues of our *British Scipio*, must be buried in oblivion; and our Streets which rung but yesterday with Acclamations and Huzzas, must now be fill'd with the Insolent Murmurings and vile Complaints of the ungrateful Rabble. *Oh Jerusalem! Jerusalem!* Didst thou but know in this thy Day, the things that belong to thy Duty and thy Happiness.

But what can we say? The Saviour of the World was hosanna'd one Day, and crucified the next. I saw the great man now before us huzzad through our Streets not long ago; and now the impudent Rabble fills them with Reproaches against his Family and self. Well, in this too he must have the Honour to follow his great Master. There were

*Exor*

*Exorbitant Grants* cried thro' our Streets, before we heard any thing of *State-Favorites*: And King *William's* Memory was sufficiently profan'd for his pretended Ingratitude to the *London-derry* men, in one Speech before the Fomenting Fables and Papers were mention'd in the other.

But now to come to a close: Complain who will of the UNION, I'm sure no hearty Lover of this so much beloved Nation has any reason for it. Tho' the *Dutch* do make a hand of our Herrings, 'tis no more then they have done before this time; nor is it fit to talk with them about it now. And as to the sinking Condition of this Island, I can't imagine how the Author of the Speech can prove it such.

At the beginning of the War, the King of *France* by Treachery was become possessed of all *Spain*, and the *Indies*, the half of *Italy*, some part of *Africa*, and all the *Spanish Netherlands*,

He was entered into several Leagues with the King of *Portugal*, the Elector of *Bavaria* and *Cologne*, and the Dukes of *Savoy*, *Mantua*, and *Wolfsenbuttle*; and then indeed an amazing prospect of Destruction look'd us in the Face on every side. But now observe the Change.

The Elector of *Bavaria* and *Cologne* are become Fugitives, in their deserved Land together with their Ally the Duke of *Modena*. The Duke of *Savoy* is now become of an Enemy, an inseparable Friend. The Territories of *Naples* and *Milan*, are Conquer'd by their Lawful Sovereign. The King of *Portugal* is Warring for us in the Heart of *Spain*; and besides *Gibraltar*, an infinite number of other Places of inferior Importance are in our hands, together with the whole Province of *Catalonia*, the best in *Spain*: Nay, which is more then all; we are Masters of *Flanders*, the Barrier and Security of *Europe*. And therefore I shall leave it to the unprejudic'd part of mankind to determin whether the Nation is really in such a sinking Condition! And whether after all our by past Experience of that kind, we ought to be so fond of changing a Ministry; who under GOD and the QUEEN have been the Authors of so many Blessings.

FINIS.

Figgis 17 Dec. 1922



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